CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for overriding an ejection lock acting upon a storage medium drive, the method comprising:

detecting manipulation of an ejection control element that signals an intent to override the ejection lock; and

overriding the ejection lock to enable storage medium ejection.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting an active state of the ejection lock comprises detecting an active software-controlled lock operated by a computer operating system.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting manipulation of an ejection control element comprises detecting atypical manipulation of an ejection control element used to eject storage media under normal operating conditions.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein detecting atypical manipulation of an ejection control element comprises detecting atypical manipulation of an eject button provided on a front panel of the storage medium drive.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein detecting atypical manipulation of an eject button comprises detecting depression and holding of the button.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein detecting atypical manipulation of an eject button comprises detecting multiple presses of the button that occur within a predetermined time period.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein overriding the ejection lock comprises executing a command stored in memory of the storage medium drive that overrides a lock command imposed by a computer operating system.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising ejecting the storage medium.

9. A system for overriding an ejection lock, the system comprising:

means for detecting manipulation of an ejection control element used to eject storage media under normal operating conditions, the manipulation indicating a user desire to override the software-based lock; and

means for overriding the software-based lock to enable storage medium ejection in response to the detected manipulation.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the means for determining comprise means for determining whether a computer operating system has imposed the software-based lock on the drive.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the means for detecting manipulation of an ejection control element comprise means for detecting at least one of pressing and holding the ejection control element and pressing the ejection control element multiple times.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the means for overriding comprise commands stored within and executed by the storage medium drive.

13. The system of claim 9, wherein the means for overriding comprise means for ejecting the storage medium.

14. A system stored on a computer-readable medium, the system comprising:

logic configured to monitor the state of a storage medium drive to determine whether a software-based lock that prevents ejection is acting upon the drive;

logic configured to monitor manipulation of a drive eject button; and

logic configured to detect atypical manipulation of the eject button that communicates a desire to override the software-based lock.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the logic configured to monitor manipulation of a drive eject button comprises logic configured to monitor a front panel eject button used to eject storage media from the storage medium drive under normal operating conditions.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein the logic configured to detect atypical manipulation of the eject button is configured to detect depression and holding of the button.

17. The system of claim 14, the logic configured to detect atypical manipulation of the eject button is configured to detect multiple presses of the button that occur within a predetermined time period.

18. The system of claim 14, further comprising logic configured to override the software-based lock to enable storage medium ejection when an appropriate atypical manipulation is detected.

19. The system of claim 14, further comprising logic configured to eject the storage medium.

20. A storage medium drive, comprising:

a storage medium ejection mechanism;

an eject button that is used to activate the ejection mechanism under normal operating conditions;

a processor; and

memory containing ejection lock override logic, the override logic being configured to detect an atypical manipulation of the eject button that signals a desire to override an ejection lock that has been imposed upon the storage medium drive, the override logic further being configured to eject a storage medium upon detection of that atypical manipulation.

21. The drive of claim 20, wherein the eject button is a finger-activated button that is provided in a front panel of the storage medium drive.

22. The drive of claim 20, wherein the drive is a compact disc (CD) drive.

23. The drive of claim 20, wherein the drive is a floppy disk drive.

24. A computer system, comprising:

a system processor;

system memory including an operating system; and

a storage medium drive including an eject button that is used to eject storage media from the drive under normal operating conditions and drive memory containing ejection lock override logic that is configured to detect atypical manipulation of the eject button that signals a desire to override an ejection lock that has been imposed upon the storage medium drive by the operating system.

25. The computer system of claim 24, wherein the storage medium drive is a compact disc (CD) drive.